

COOPERATIVE ANIMAL DISEASE CONTROL

OCTOBER 6, 1971.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. POAGE, from the Committee on Agriculture,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 10458]

The Committee on Agriculture, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 10458) to broaden and expand the powers of the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with countries in the Western Hemisphere to prevent or retard communicable diseases of animals, where the Secretary deems such action necessary to protect the livestock, poultry, and related industries of the United States, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments and recommend that the bill do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

Page 1, line 7, strike out the words "governments of countries of the Western Hemisphere" and insert in lieu thereof the following: "the governments of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, British Honduras, Panama, Colombia, and Canada".

Page 3, line 1, strike out the quotation mark and the words "of countries of the Western Hemisphere," and insert in lieu thereof the following: " " of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, British Honduras, Panama, Colombia, and Canada," "

Amend the title of the bill by striking out the words "countries in the Western Hemisphere" and insert in lieu thereof the words "Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, British Honduras, Panama, Colombia, and Canada".

PURPOSE

The Secretary of Agriculture presently has the authority to cooperate with the Governments of Mexico and Central American countries

in operations and measures to suppress or control foot-and-mouth disease and rinderpest. He may also cooperate in screwworm programs in Mexico. The purpose of this bill is to extend the authority of the Secretary to cooperate with several other countries in the Western Hemisphere and to broaden his authority by including all other communicable diseases of animals. His authority also is broadened to include the administration of cooperative programs to control or eradicate poultry diseases.

The 10 countries which would be included in the law, if enacted, would be as follows: Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, British Honduras, Panama, Colombia, and Canada.

NEED FOR THE LEGISLATION

Venezuelan Equine Encephalomyelitis (more commonly known as VEE or horse sleeping sickness) has existed in Venezuela since 1935.

The disease moved into Central America about 1969, some 30 years later. It reached southern Mexico in 1970 and moved into an area just south of Tampico, Mexico, in April 1971. On July 9, 1971, laboratory analyses confirmed two cases of VEE near Brownsville, Tex.

The latest figures available to the Committee showed that approximately 1,354 horses had died as a result of VEE and about 2,000 had been sick. Also, approximately 94 humans became ill from the disease.

Another animal disease that presents potential dangers is African swine fever. The existence of this disease in Cuba was reported on June 23, 1971. Precautionary restrictions were immediately imposed by the Secretary of Agriculture at ports visited by ships in trade with Cuba. So far, no outbreak has occurred in the United States nor in the Central American countries. It is felt that the Secretary should have the authority to cooperate with the countries included in this legislation should such an outbreak occur.

The Committee recognizes that complete eradication of VEE is probably not possible, and fortunately we have not had to contend with African swine fever. American consumers are accustomed to meat and poultry products of the highest standards, and the Committee feels that as a matter of prudence it should take steps to prevent any spread of poultry diseases as well as animal diseases into the United States. It is believed that if the Secretary of Agriculture were given authority to cooperate with the governments listed, outbreaks of such diseases can be controlled and the chances of their spreading into the United States greatly reduced.

HEARINGS

Joint hearings were held by the Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains and the Subcommittee on Department Operations on July 28, 1971, on H.R. 10207 and similar bills. As a result of these hearings a clean bill (H.R. 10458) was introduced by Mr. Purcell and 14 members of the Committee. On September 29, 1971, by a division vote of 20-0, H.R. 10458 was ordered reported, as amended, by the full Committee with the recommendation that it do pass.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The Committee adopted in essence the amendments recommended by the Department of Agriculture.

However, the Committee specifically designated each of the 10 neighbor nations to which the legislation would apply. Canada was not included in the USDA proposed amendment, but was added by the Committee.

DEPARTMENTAL POSITION

In its report on H.R. 10458 the Department of Agriculture recommended passage of the bill with suggested amendments. As pointed out earlier, the amendments which the Department recommended were substantially adopted by the Committee. The Department's report is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., September 27, 1971.

HON. W. R. POAGE,
*Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,
House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in reply to your request for a report on H.R. 10458. The bill is entitled to broaden and expand the powers of the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with countries in the Western Hemisphere to prevent or retard communicable diseases of animals, where the Secretary deems such action necessary to protect the livestock, poultry, and related industries of the United States.

The act of February 28, 1947, as amended (21 U.S.C. 114b) limits the authority of this Department to cooperate with Mexico on animal disease problems to only foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, or screw-worm. The act of July 6, 1968 (21 U.S.C. 114d-2) limits our authority to cooperate with the several governments of Central America on animal disease problems to only foot-and-mouth disease or rinderpest.

H.R. 10458 would amend the act of February 28, 1947, to extend the authority of this Department to cooperate with all the countries of the Western Hemisphere with regard to any communicable disease of animals, including but not limited to the diseases specifically enumerated under the present law. The act of July 6, 1968, would be repealed.

This Department recommends the enactment of H.R. 10458 with the amendments in the enclosed statement.

The threat of foreign animal diseases gaining entry into this country continues to increase with the ever-expanding world trade and travel. Under such continuously changing circumstances, we must increase our protective measures to guard against such threat. The additional authority under H.R. 10458 would extend our ability to protect against the entry of exotic animal diseases by dealing effectively with the problem before it reaches our boundary with Mexico. There can be no better example of the value of such preventive measures than the cooperative program with Mexico on foot-and-mouth disease.

Under the bill, the Secretary of Agriculture would be authorized to cooperate with any Western Hemisphere country in conducting opera-

tions or measures to eradicate, suppress, or control, or to prevent or retard, any communicable disease of animals "where he deems such action necessary to protect the livestock, poultry, and related industries of the United States." The expanded authority under the bill to cooperate with any Western Hemisphere country is unnecessarily broad in coverage. It is not necessary to go beyond the Isthmus of Panama and adjacent areas in Colombia in order to protect the livestock and poultry industries of this country against the spread of destructive animal diseases over land routes. The inclusion of Colombia would permit cooperative measures for maintaining a disease-free zone along the Colombian-Panamanian border. The enclosed statement provides the amendments required to modify the geographical coverage under the bill.

At the present time, we are cooperating with Mexico, Central American countries, and Panama in conducting operations primarily directed toward the prevention of foot-and-mouth disease in those countries. This includes field inspections, laboratory diagnostic work, et cetera, for the prompt detection and handling of any suspected case of foot-and-mouth disease. It would be necessary to expand the existing work force in these countries in order to fulfill the added responsibility of preventing, retarding, et cetera, of "any communicable disease of animals." This is especially true with regard to African swine fever.

Such an expansion would require additional appropriations of approximately \$450,000 on an annual basis. The provisions of section 102 (2) (C), Public Law 91-190, are not applicable.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the administration's program.

Sincerely,

J. PHIL CAMPBELL, *Under Secretary.*

Enclosure.

U.S.D.A. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 10458

(The following amendments to H.R. 10458 were recommended by USDA)

a. In the title of the bill, delete "countries in the Western Hemisphere," and insert in lieu thereof "the Government of Mexico, the several governments of Central America, the Government of Panama, and the Government of Colombia."

b. On page 1, line 7, delete "governments of countries of the Western Hemisphere," and insert in lieu thereof "the Government of Mexico, the several governments of Central America, the government of Panama, and the Government of Colombia."

c. On page 3, lines 1 and 2, delete "countries of the Western Hemisphere," and insert in lieu thereof "the Government of Mexico, the several governments of Central America, the Government of Panama, and the Government of Colombia."

CURRENT AND 5 SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEAR COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee estimates the cost to be incurred by

the Federal Government during the current and the 5 subsequent fiscal years as a result of the enactment of this legislation would be \$2,250,000 for the 5-year period fiscal year 1973-77, or \$450,000 per year. It is not anticipated that any additional appropriation would be made for this program in the current fiscal year (fiscal year 1972).

The same cost estimate was submitted to the Committee by the Department of Agriculture.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with clause 3 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in *italic*, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

THE ACT OF FEBRUARY 28, 1947, AS AMENDED

21 U.S.C. 114b. Cooperation with Mexico in control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, and screw-worm.

[The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to cooperate with the Government of Mexico in carrying out operations or measures to eradicate, suppress, or control, or to prevent or retard, foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, or screw-worm in Mexico where he deems such action necessary to protect the livestock and related industries of the United States. In performing the operations or measures authorized in sections 114b to 114d of this title, the Government of Mexico shall be responsible for the authority necessary to carry out such operations or measures on all lands and properties in Mexico and for such other facilities and means as in the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture are necessary. The measure and character of cooperation carried out under said sections on the part of the United States and on the part of the Government of Mexico, including the expenditure or use of funds appropriated pursuant to said sections, shall be such as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Arrangements for the cooperation authorized by said sections shall be made through and in consultation with the Secretary of State. The authority contained in said sections is in addition to and not in substitution for the authority of existing law.**]**

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to cooperate with the governments of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, British Honduras, Panama, Colombia and Canada in carrying out operations or measures to eradicate, suppress, or control, or to prevent or retard, any communicable disease of animals, including but not limited to foot-and-mouth disease, rinderpest, or screwworm in such countries where he deems such action necessary to protect the livestock, poultry, and related industries of the United States. In performing the operations or measures authorized in this Act, the Governments of such countries shall be responsible for the authority necessary to carry out such operations or measures on all lands and properties therein and for such other facilities and means as in the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture are necessary. The

measure and character of cooperation carried out under this Act on the part of the United States and on the part of the Governments of such countries, including the expenditure or use of funds appropriated pursuant to this Act, shall be such as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Arrangements for the cooperation authorized by this Act shall be made through and in consultation with the Secretary of State. The authority contained in this Act is in addition to and not in substitution for the authority of existing law.

21 U.S.C. 114c. Same; use of funds for purchase or hire of vehicles and airplanes, printing, and employment of personnel.

For purposes of sections 114b to 114d and section 114a of this title, insofar as sections 114b to 114d of this title relate to diseases which in the opinion of the Secretary constitute an emergency and threaten the livestock industry of the country, funds appropriated pursuant thereto may also be used for the purchase or hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft, for printing and binding without regard to section 111 of Title 44, for personal services in the District of Columbia and elsewhere without regard to the limitations contained in section 947 (g) of Title 5, including the employment of civilian nationals [of Mexico,] *of Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua, British Honduras, Panama, Colombia, and Canada*, and for the construction and operation of research laboratories, quarantine stations and other buildings and facilities.

REPEAL * * * * *

THE ACT OF JULY 6, 1968

21 U.S.C. 114d-2. Cooperation with Central America in control and eradication of foot-and-mouth disease or rinderpest.

[The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to cooperate with the several governments of Central America in carrying out operations or measures to prevent or retard, suppress, or control, or to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease or rinderpest in Central America where he deems such action necessary to protect the livestock and related industries of the United States. In performing the operations or measures herein authorized, the several governments of Central America shall be responsible for the authority necessary to carry out such operations or measures on all lands and properties in each nation and for such other facilities and means as in the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture are necessary. The measure and character of cooperation carried out under sections 114d-2 to 114d-6 of this title on the part of the United States and on the part of the several governments of Central America, including the expenditure or use of funds appropriated pursuant to sections 114d-2 to 114d-6 of this title, shall be such as may be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Arrangements for the cooperation authorized by sections 114d-2 to 114d-6 of this title shall be made through and in consultation with the Secretary of State. The authority contained in sections 114d-2 to 114d-6 of this title is in addition to and not in substitution for the authority of existing law.]

21 U.S.C. 114d-3. Same; uses of funds.

【For purposes of section 114d-2 to 114d-6 of this title, funds appropriated pursuant thereto may also be used for the purchase or hire of passenger motor vehicles and aircraft, for printing and binding without regard to section 87 of the Act of January 12, 1895, or section 111 of Title 44, and for the employment of civilian nationals of the several nations of Central America.】

21 U.S.C. 114d-4. Same; governments of Central America.

【The governments of Central America, for the purposes of sections 114d-2 to 114d-6 of this title, mean the governments for those countries located between the Republic of Columbia and the Republic of Mexico.】

21 U.S.C. 114d-5. Same; cooperation with public and private organizations and individuals.

【In carrying out sections 114d-2 to 114d-6 of this title the Secretary of Agriculture is further authorized to cooperate with other public and private organizations and individuals.】

21 U.S.C. 114d-6. Same; authorization of appropriations.

【There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out sections 114d-2 to 114d-6 of this title.】



